



COLORADO SPRINGS,
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APRIL 1991

PIKES PEAK RADIO AMATEUR ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 16521
Colorado Springs, CO 80935

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Ø BEAT



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The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Elks Lodge, 3400 North Nevada Ave. at 7 PM.

EDITOR: Ron Deutsch NKØP 4305 Ridgeline Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80918 (719) 593-8352. Electronic data transfer by appointment.

Message from the President...

Well, the attendance at the March 1991 monthly PPRAA meeting set a landmark in the recent history of the club. The count of attendees according to "the book" was 87, but then two officers of the club admitted at the board meeting that they had forgotten to sign in! So the total count came to 89, including many new and prospective hams, which is more than we've had at a meeting for a very long time.

With this month's meeting being the annual Severe Weather Spotter (SKYWARN) training session, it's possible that we may have even more attendees. In anticipation of that, I have asked the Elk's Club management to provide us with 100 chairs (we had 80 last time) and we think we've found a way to get some cross ventilation in the room to better control the temperature.

At the last board meeting, when we were discussing upcoming programs, it was noted that we have managed to come up with a couple of more technical topics for programs over the next several months. But I also noticed that we haven't heard much feedback on that idea of going more technical. So I'll be asking for a show of hands at the next meeting to determine once again whether we're going in the right direction as far as the membership is concerned.

I have also been asked to point out that additional VE's are still needed both for the upcoming swapfest testing and others. If you can help out, even for only one of the test sessions, please contact Chris NXØE or Bill K4YCD.

Finally, for all who missed seeing Al Craig N2IWZ (our Publicity Manager) at the last meeting, I discov-

ered that he had been sick to the extent that he had to be hospitalized for a period of time. I'm sure you would all like to join me in wishing Al a speedy recovery and let's hope he is well enough to make it to our next meeting.

I'll look forward to seeing you all again at this month's meeting...

73, Dave, NØION

Committee Chairpersons, etc.

Publicity:	Al Craig N2IWZ	594-9288
Education:	Allen Bailey ADØZ	597-8514
VE Testing:		
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ARES:	John Chapman NØKIC	635-1804
SKYWARN:	Doug Paris N4TGO	495-4908
Public Service:	Mike Stansberry KØTER	636-1290
Field Day:	Mike Stansberry KØTER	636-1290
CCARC:	Oak Stockton KØROL	570-7782
Club Trailer:	Steve Westby WB7VHR	570-1070
Swapfest:	Jeff Boyes NØJLH	591-6438
Swapfest Tables:	Al Vrooman NØCMW	473-1660
	or Frances Vrooman NØIUT	473-1680
Ø-BEAT:	Ron Deutsch NKØP	593-8352

PPRAA SWAPFEST

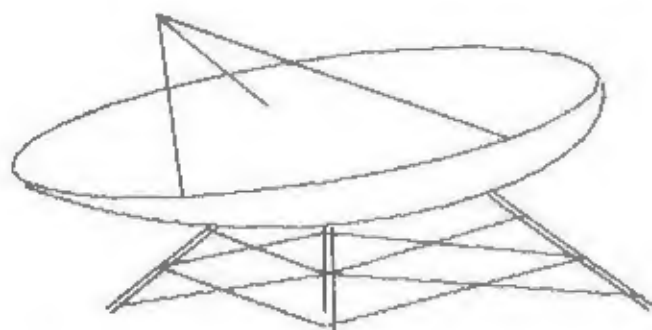
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TALK-IN 146.52 SIMPLEX

Plane Crash Self-critique

WB0MHP, AEC for HF, Dist. 14 ARES

This self-critique is meant to remind me not to let preparation wait until tomorrow. It is also meant to share what each individual's lack of preparation can do in time of a spontaneous disaster. Why is it we always say to ourselves "goah, I wish I had done that sooner?"

Why is it we seem to do better in simulated exercises than in the real thing? In simulated exercises, we do better because we kind of know when it's going to happen, and sometimes know what's going to happen. This was definitely not the case last Sunday morning when the United 737 crashed in Widesfield.

What did I do wrong? I didn't prepare for the real thing. I had key telephone numbers somewhere in the shack. I assumed months ago, when I was entrusted with these phone numbers, I would have plenty of time to edit the packet file in which I received the numbers and set up a data base in which I could easily find them.

Problem number one - When the crash occurred and I was asked to fulfil my duty as an AEC and call the key person to which these numbers belonged, the adrenalin caused a temporary memory loss as to which directory these numbers were in. **RESULT - DELAY!**

Problem number two - I was in a CW QSO with my father-in-law and I couldn't access the directory because the computer was doing the talking. I could have aborted the QSO but that would have caused my father-in-law to call long distance thinking his equipment failed. That long distance phone call would have caused even more chaos during these crucial minutes. **RESULT - MORE DELAY!**

Problem number three - After I completed the requested phone call I was to take net control since I was the only known base station on at the time. Because I was now frantically trying to sort through my file cabinet where I thought I had a hard-copy print out with the key phone numbers, John, El Paso County AEC, who was mobile, was forced to put out a plea for a net control. **RESULT - EVEN MORE DELAY!**

What this all comes down to was an embarrassingly long delay in getting the emergency communications organized in this **REAL** disaster.

Recommendations - I feel that training is a **MUST**. ARES training last October during the SET (Simulated Emergency Test) revealed the same sort of problems. So **WHY** did they occur again? Train-

ing that is **NOT** regularly repeated is soon forgotten when your adrenalin is at an all-time high.

I also feel that non-ARES members are as vital as ARES members, however, non-ARES members don't show up on rosters with each persons capabilities and availability. I recommend that **EVERYONE** interested in helping in emergencies become an ARES member so that we know who you are **BEFORE** the critical need arises. There are no dues, no required meetings, no elections, no politics, and no coffee and donuts once a month. **BUT**, there are rewards in knowing that you belong to the pool of valuable communicators and are accessible when needed. About the only requirement as an ARES member is: when training is offered participation is requested.

I also recommend that we don't fall into the trap I did by relying on my computer to give me fast, unrestricted access to vital information. What if I lost AC power (my computer is not battery operated)? The DC powered radice won't do any good if I can't get to the needed information.

In summary, I want to share my experiences and what potential problems lack of preparation and practice can cause. I realize part of our name is amateur but our actions must be professional if we are to make contributions as communicators.

Practice makes permanent!!!



"...so I said to myself to heck with miniaturization..."

1934 Official

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edited by Hugo Gernsback

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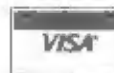


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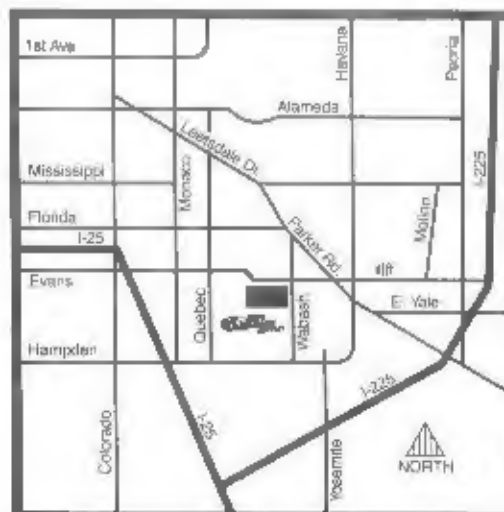
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A Visit To 9-1-1

(They discourage calling it "Nine-Eleven")

On a recent weekend, my son Chris and I had an opportunity to visit the three emergency communications centers located in the headquarters building of the Colorado Springs Police Department. We started at the 911 communications center, then we spent quite some time at the Colorado Springs Fire Department dispatch center, and finally visited the Colorado Springs Police Department dispatch center. We had both missed the 911 program at the club meeting last year (everyone tells us it was great, and I'll bet we're not the only ones who missed it!), so getting to see what they do and how they do it taught us a lot.

At the 911 center, we discovered first of all that the 911 operators cover all of El Paso county as well as some nearby areas of adjoining counties. Most of the time, there are two operators covering this whole area, though on known busy times, such as New Year's Eve, there is a third position which can be activated. They are really knowledgeable about the area they cover although sometimes even they have difficulty identifying locations from the descriptions given to them by callers.

For those of you who are not familiar with the system, all of the 911 calls from the area of coverage come through this one facility where the calls can be patched directly to any of the many emergency agencies in the area. The general area of the call origin is known by the incoming line, but the number of the calling party is not automatically known and must be traced if necessary. Often the calls need to be patched to several agencies in turn in which case the operator can be tied up for the duration of the whole series of calls.

But there were a number of quite serious problems we observed in just the short time we were there, problems not with the system but with the users of the system. The most obvious was the number of crank calls they received which probably outnumbered real calls by 3 or 4 to 1. At that time it was apparently almost exclusively kids bored with their Saturday afternoon but, kids or not, it tied up that switchboard like you wouldn't want to believe, especially if you were trying to get through with a real emergency call.

There were also problems with some legitimate calls. We noticed that 911 typically receives 3 or 4 or more calls about the same incident, but many

callers seem to think that they're the only one calling. They don't want to believe the operators when they tell them that they already have the information, so they keep the operators tied up longer than necessary.

Many people panic in an emergency and trying to get the important information from them is sometimes difficult. While we were there, a call came in about a traffic accident involving serious injuries, but it took several minutes for the actual location to be determined. That translated into several minutes delay in the proper rescue companies being dispatched to the scene, and this was an incident which eventually needed Flight for Life helicopter transportation of a patient in critical condition where every minute counts.

But the thing I heard which was most disturbing to me was a call which may well have come from a fellow ham on an autopatch. A car fire on I-25 near the Pueblo County line had already been reported by several people and fire companies had already been dispatched. This well-intentioned person, once he realized he did indeed have the 911 operator, continued for several minutes to provide every possible detail about the incident, detail which was far beyond what was required. He didn't realize that this information was already known or not needed, and his phone link was clearly only half-duplex which made it impossible for the 911 operator to break in and inform him. The operator was occupied for quite some time with this one call. In the meantime, the other operator was still tied up with the serious traffic accident, and other calls were continuing to come in and being forced to wait.

It was the half-duplex nature of the call that made me think it could well be a ham, and we all know how hams like to keep on talking! But, even if it wasn't a ham, the problems were ones we could encounter while using an autopatch, and in the past I have overheard fellow hams unwittingly having similar problems with 911. Only since seeing the other side of this incident do I understand why.

So what did I learn from all this? We hams need to be aware of how easily we can tie up those vital resources when using autopatches. But a few simple guidelines can eliminate these problems and make us far more valuable to the emergency agencies. So I have put together a few hints which I think might help all around:

- When calling via an autopatch, immediately identify yourself as a mobile amateur radio operator. Because the patch phone line is probably some distance away, the location you give will probably not correspond to that expected by the 911 operator, so proper identification will eliminate that point of confusion.
- Listen to the 911 operator. Once you have established that you're talking to the right people, concentrate on answering their questions. They know what to ask.
- Give the location of the incident as clearly and accurately as possible. Even a simple mistake can mean that emergency services may get dispatched to the completely wrong area.
- Recognize that you may not be the first person to call in this incident and believe the operator if they tell you so.
- Keep your transmissions short, preferably no longer than about 10 seconds. By doing that, the operator can interrupt you if necessary.
- Don't insist on giving additional information unless there are extraordinary circumstances. Such cases might include accidents with many injuries where multiple ambulances may be required.

I believe that if we all follow these relatively simple guidelines, we can further prove that our services are invaluable when it comes to being where it happens and being able to summon help in a timely manner. And we can earn greater respect of those critical 911 operators.

Many of the local emergency services can be heard through the extended receive coverage of modern ham transceivers, as well as on readily available scanners, and listening to them can sometimes be quite interesting. So our next stop was just across the hallway to see how the CSFD handles their communications, most of which are done on UHF repeaters (output frequencies shown). Channel 1 (460.625MHz) is the main dispatch channel and is also used for general coverage of most medicals and other relatively minor incidents. Channel 2 (460.525MHz) is used mainly for structure fires, while Channel 3 (460.575MHz, often also used simplex), is used for hazardous materials incidents and others. They also have a VHF paging and simulcast dispatch channel on 154.13MHz.

One person constantly monitors all the channels while another deals with all incoming phone calls. A third person is designated as "Med Control" and provides medical information to responding rescue companies on the normal FD channels. They also use several of the nationally allocated "med channels" (463.xxx/468.xxxMHz) to cover ambulance to

hospital communications (Note that you need to listen to both of the pair of frequencies to hear both sides of those conversations). Med channel 9 (467.950/462.950MHz) is first used for med control to establish which channel will be used to patch an ambulance via land line to any of the local hospitals. The ambulance then switches to the specified channel.

When we finally went upstairs to CSFD dispatch, we learned that they've changed over to a 3 zone dispatch scheme rather than the 2 zones previously used. Based on just one evening's observation on my part, I believe that Channel 1 (453.750MHz) is now used to dispatch to the Northern part of town (I don't yet know for sure what defines "North", though it appears as though the line may be somewhere around the 3000 N. block). Channel 2 (453.850MHz) continues to be used for dispatch to the West part of town (West of Union), and Channel 3 (453.550MHz) is now used to dispatch to the East side of town (East of Union). Routine license checks, etc., have moved to Channel 4 (453.475MHz), while Channels 5 and 6 (453.350MHz & 453.300MHz) continue to be for special purpose uses.

But I think the most disappointing thing about our visit was learning that the Enhanced 911 system will not be in place until early 1993. That system will help the operators in many ways, for example, by showing automatically the exact calling number and location of all calls which will both reduce crank calls as well as enabling them to get help even more quickly to callers unable to communicate well. Hopefully the PPRAA will be able to have another program on the system when E-911 becomes functional.

So why do they insist on "Nine-One-One" rather than "Nine-Eleven"? Believe it or not, there are still people out there who use a phone so infrequently that they have a problem trying to locate the "11" button (or hole in the dial) to call "Nine-Eleven".

Dave NØION

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VE NEWS

On March 9th, VE examinations were held in Colorado Springs. Twenty-two amateurs and hopefuls appeared at Chapman College to try the exams required to upgrade or get licensed. The results were one new novice license, thirteen technicians, including six new no-code technicians, two generals and one upgrade to extra. PPRAA congratulates the successful candidates and invites them to participate in the club.

The next examination scheduled by PPRAA will be held at the club sponsored swapfest on May 18th at the Shops at the Bluffs. The exams will start promptly at 10:00 AM so walk-ins are encouraged to arrive by 9:00 to complete the forms. Photo ID, a check or money order made payable to "ARRL/VEC" for \$5.25, a copy and the original of your amateur license are required to take exams.

As always, pre-registration is encouraged - call Chris Smith, NX0E, at 495-0624 early in May for pre-registration. Pre-registered applicants receive priority in the event of shortages of examination materials.

VE examiners will be needed for this exam as well as the others planned for 1991 (the second Saturday of June, September and December). If you are a registered VE (with any VEC) and can help, please contact Chris Smith soon.

-NX0E

APRIL PPRAA MEETING

The April meeting of the PPRAA will be held on the 10th at 7PM. We meet at the ELK's Club, 3400 North Nevada Ave.

The topic of the meeting will be:

SEVERE WEATHER TRAINING

Don't miss this important topic!

(The Elk's Club is handicap accessible)

For more information about the club or our activities contact any of the club officers or board members listed on the masthead of this newsletter.

PPRAA HOSTS HAM RADIO CLASS

"Welcome to the PPRAA Radio Class",

This is what greeted students and guests at a session of Ham Radio class. These words were written on the 3' X 4' marker board that will be used to teach the classes.

Twenty-four students and eight radio amateurs were present, the youngest is 5 years old. Its gratifying to see the classes so actively supported by the licensed operators, also that the PPRAA is willing to spend some funds for the marker board, which will also serve as screen for the projector. KB0FNM, Russ made a frame for the board so I won't have to hold it during class. The club also gave us 5 hand keys with oscillators and voted to buy a oscillator for the new keyer. I am sure I speak for Education Chairman, AD0Z, Allen and everyone connected with the class when I say we appreciate the clubs involvement.

We are finding the VFW Post 4051 a nice place to meet with ample room for the group. There being two nights when the room is unavailable to us on those evenings the class was divided according to code or no-code. One of the groups met with Darrell, KB0DUQ/KT and the other with KB0FNM, Russ and myself thus adding some additional insight into amateur radio for the group...visiting a ham shack is always fun.

WA0MNL, Rosie

BALLOON LAUNCH MAY 4TH

A balloon launch is set for May 4th in Denver.

For time, location of launch, and operating frequencies contact Malcolm Benton, KE9S at 488-2071, 146.520 simplex, or leave message at W0LKD Packet BBS.

PPRAA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 13, 1991

The general meeting of the Pikea Peak Radio Amateur Association was called to order at 7 pm by Dave - NØION. There were 88 members and guests present (the largest group in over two years).

After introductions, corrections to the treasurer's report on last month's balance were made. The amount should have been \$2165.22. The minutes were then approved.

Rosie - WAØMNL reported the treasury had an income of \$213 and expenses of \$243.34 leaving a balance of \$2134.56.

Ron - NKØP indicated that extra copies of Ø-Beat have been distributed. Also, the Dits'n Bits column is free to any member - contact Ron to place an ad. Swapfest tickets are now available from board members.

Lauren - EXØO indicated there had been one interference call from a non-ham who had a problem with an operator using excessive power on 27 Mhz. A filter was installed on the person's phone and the problem has apparently been solved.

John - NØKIC urged ARES members to keep their rosters with phone numbers handy in the event of a call-up. A brief discussion of the recent plane crash and the involvement of ARES was covered.

Mike - KØTER thanked the helpers at the rocket launch activity (even though the weather did not cooperate). The MS Supercities walk will occur April 6th and it is fully manned. April 13th will see the Walk for Mankind and people are still needed to help. WalkAmerica will occur April 28th and volunteers are also needed for this event. Finally, a Volksmarch is scheduled for Memorial Day Sunday at Fox Run Park. Mike also gave a brief Field Day update.

Steve - WB7VHR noted that the next meeting will be on severe weather training.

Oak - KØROL noted nothing new new with OCARC.

Chris - NXØE reported that 22 people took the VE test on March 9th. There were 1 Novice, 13 Technicians, 2 Generals, and 1 Extra obtaining their license. The next test session will be at the Swapfest on May 18th and no preregistration is needed. Another test will be held on June 8th and preregistration is required. Call 495-0624 for information.

Al - ADØZ announced the beginning of classes at the VFW hall downtown. Classes are Mondays and Thursdays and cover elements 1A, 2, and 3A. Fifteen to 20 people are signed up.

Updated were given on the trailer (by Steve) and on the Swapfest (by Jeff - NØLII).

In unfinished business, Dave expressed thanks for the get well card. Members are also encouraged to check their Ø-BEAT label for their renewal date.

Several items were brought up in new business. Comments were expressed on the new layout of the meeting room and thanks was expressed to the Elk's Club manager for his help and service. Members were reminded that a 25 cent "donation" to the doughnut fund is needed for each doughnut taken; however, coffee is still free.

Doc has information available for members interested in the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA).

Members were reminded that the regular Saturday breakfast is still going strong at the Village Inn (Palmer Park at Academy) from 6:30 am on. Anyone is welcome to attend.

After the break at 7:53, the raffle was held. Winners were:

Lee - WA6IZI	-Spotlight
Ron - WB6FRV	-Spotlight
Renay - KA0ROY	-Mini flashlight
Al - ADØZ	-Mini directory
Don - WA7VVA	-HRO Cup
Russ - WBØPNM	-Surge Suppressor
Bill Petty	-OEM gift certificate
Chris - NXØE	-Keyer

For the evening's program, George - KDØRW gave a talk on the Colorado Connection and told a few interesting stories of the joys of running such a system. An upcoming article in QST is expected to further describe this undertaking.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56. The next general meeting will be on April 10, 1991.

FROM PAGE 10

directed toward FCC enforcement - what do you think?

PERSONAL NOTE: Many, many thanks to all of you who sent cards and offered good wishes by phone and on the air toward my wife who has been hospitalized for rehabilitation after a stroke on March 2nd. If all goes well, she'll be home about April 9th and doing fine toward recovery. We truly appreciate your kind thoughts and expressions... thank you!

73, George NØCIX

PPRAA BOARD MINUTES

March 19, 1991

The board meeting of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association was held at 7:00 pm in the home of Russ - WB0PNM. Present were Russ, Rosie - WA0MNL, Ron - NK0P, Dave - N0ION, Al - N0CMW, Harv - WB6YXD, Renay - KA0ROY, Jeff - N0LH, Cassie, and Mark - N0EPF.

Discussion began with reactions to the new set-up of the meeting room. Response appeared favorable so the arrangement will remain the same.

Al - N2IWZ has been ill recently so no report on publicity was available. Cards/calls are welcome.

Upcoming programs were discussed with next month's program covering severe weather training. May is still open with several topics being considered. June will cover Field Day and another Auction will occur. July is tentatively set for Oak - K0ROL to present on amateur television and August is tentative for a program on Sporadic E.

Ron indicated a need for articles for 5-BEAT.

General and minor (but necessary) details of the Swapfest were next discussed. It was MOVED to authorize \$100 for hourly door prizes. The motion PASSED.

Twenty-three students are now enrolled in the classes at the VFW hall with 8ham volunteers providing help. The youngest is 5 1/2. The education committee asked for improved code oscillators, keys and a blackboard. It was MOVED to authorize \$75 for these purchases. The motion PASSED. The board noted that education is one of the most important activities of the club.

After a request, it was MOVED to authorize up to \$15 per quarter for misc. expenses. The motion PASSED on a vote of 6 to 2.

As discussion turned to Field Day matters, it was MOVED to authorize the rental of 2 trailers for station use (this has been done at past events). The motion PASSED.

Discussion continued concerning difficulties at the Deaf and Blind school. The board discussed the current efforts and noted the problems but was at a loss to resolve the issues. Thanks were expressed to Terri - N0KYZ and Bud - N0AA for their effort and persistence in helping out at the school.

There being no further business, the board adjourned at 8:41 pm. The next meeting will be April 16, 1991 at the home of Jeff and Renay.

Respectfully Submitted, Mark - N0EPF

"The View From the Peak"

by George Hinds, N8CIX

GROWTH OR NO-GROWTH? Now that an almost monumental break from tradition for U.S. amateurs has transpired with the adoption of a codeless licence, many are waiting for reports as to what effect it will have on increasing the number of licensed amateurs. Here in Teller County, as an example, almost a dozen members of our search and rescue have purchased study manuals and are at work for the new Tech ticket.

Coming as it does at a time when fierce competition for radio frequencies is the rule, not the exception, the desire for rapid growth in the amateur service should be understandable to all but those who adamantly refuse to see what is happening. Or those to whom yesterday is more important than tomorrow.

While the U.S. continues to observe the international requirement for code proficiency on HF, others don't. Japan, for example, allows codeless licensees some HF operation on the accepted premise that no interference by such operation is created. Such practice is inconsistent with the international regulations. So witness the growth of Japan's amateur radio population outstripping the U.S. They now have several times the number of licensees as this country. About 1,050,000! according to the 1990 issue of the JARL callbook. That's where experimentation and development is largely taking place. That where amateur equipment research and development are today. They'll have a national swapfest this year that will dwarf our fantastic Dayton Hamvention; it's expected they will have at least double the attendance of Dayton (which is about 30,000). Now that rapid growth is something to think about...

You can bet your bippy no government body, no industry is anxious to challenge that size group to pluck away a frequency here and there as seems to be more and more the case in the U.S. What politician here would want to face over a million amateur radio operators (who also vote)? That's the situation over there... What if it were the situation here...

USERFEES? I've not heard many comments, pro or con, on-the-air about the FCC proposal looking toward "user fees" that will include the amateur service. It appears the fee for amateur service licenses would be \$3 per year, or \$30 for the usual 10-year licence being issued today. The fee is directed toward covering the costs relating to rulemaking, rule enforcement and regulatory actions. The fee applicable to amateur radio operators would be the smallest fee to be levied; commercial users would pay much more. Many amateurs have commented that they would welcome a reasonable fee IF it were

CONT. ON PAGE 9

DITS AND BITS

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